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H. Franklin Parsons
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CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC HEALTH SERIES

UNDER THE EDITORSHIP OF

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to Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, and Secretary to the State Medicine Syndicate*

ISOLATION HOSPITALS

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ISOLATION HOSPITALS

BY

H. FRANKLIN PARSONS,
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SOMETIME FIRST ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

SECOND EDITION

REVISED AND PARTLY RE-WRITTEN BY

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FORMERLY SECOND ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD
AND MEDICAL OFFICER, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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EDITORS' PREFACE

IN view of the increasing importance of the study of public hygiene and the recognition by doctors, teachers, administrators and members of Public Health and Hygiene Committees alike that the *salus populi* must rest, in part at least, upon a scientific basis, the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press have decided to publish a series of volumes dealing with the various subjects connected with Public Health.

The books included in the Series present in a useful and handy form the knowledge now available in many branches of the subject. They are written by experts, and the authors are occupied, or have been occupied, either in investigations connected with the various themes or in their application and administration. They include the latest scientific and practical information offered in a manner which is not too technical. The bibliographies contain references to the literature of each subject which will ensure their utility to the specialist.

It has been the desire of the editors to arrange that the books should appeal to various classes of readers: and it is hoped that they will be useful to the medical profession at home and abroad, to bacteriologists and laboratory students, to municipal engineers and architects, to medical officers of health and sanitary inspectors and to teachers and administrators.

Many of the volumes will contain material which will be suggestive and instructive to members of Public Health and Hygiene Committees; and it is intended that they shall seek to influence the large body of educated and intelligent public opinion interested in the problems of public health.

January 1914.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

A SECOND edition of *Isolation Hospitals* having been urgently demanded the whole text was carefully revised and, where necessary, portions were rewritten and brought as far as possible up to date. The part of the book which needed most amendment and alteration was that devoted to Sanatoria. These institutions, it is generally acknowledged, are still undergoing a process of evolution which in recent years has been greatly retarded by circumstances arising out of the great war. It is however expected that some advancement will shortly take place and that the construction and arrangement of Sanatoria will probably be much improved in the near future. It is therefore necessary to point out that what is now written in this work concerning Sanatoria can only be regarded in the meantime as provisional, although based upon the latest available official information. Some of the illustrations which appeared in the first edition have been suppressed as no longer being altogether up to date, and they have been replaced by others which are regarded as being more representative of present day views.

Thanks are due to Sir George Newman, K.C.B., for permission to make use of plans and memoranda belonging to the Ministry of Health ; also to Dr T. Eustace Hill, O.B.E., Medical Officer of Health for the County of Durham, and to Dr H. Spurrier, Medical Superintendent of the National Sanatorium, Benenden, Kent, for permission to reproduce photographs of certain Sanatoria. Special thanks are owing to Dr A. S. MacNalty and Dr J. E. Chapman, Medical Officers of the Ministry of Health, for their kind advice and assistance in revising the section of the book which deals with Sanatoria.

R. B. L.

December, 1921

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

I N writing a book on Isolation Hospitals as one of the volumes of the *Cambridge Public Health Series*, the special aim of the author has been to produce a work which shall be of practical use to members of local authorities, medical officers of health, hospital superintendents and others interested in the establishment or management of hospitals for infectious diseases; and he hopes that the experience gained during a long official career may have enabled him to include some useful information and suggestions not otherwise readily obtainable. A chapter on Sanatoria for Tuberculosis has been included in view of the importance of this subject at the present time, when the provision of the accommodation necessary for affording "sanatorium benefit" under the National Insurance Act, 1911, is engaging the attention of public bodies. The matter is at present in a stage of rapid evolution, and anything that can be written upon it must be regarded as only provisional; but the chapter gives the latest official pronouncements on the subject.

On subjects of controversy, such as the utility of hospital isolation of scarlet fever, the aerial convection of infection from small-pox hospitals, and bed-isolation in relation to the prevention of cross-infection and of "return cases," the author has endeavoured to give a fair summary of the arguments on either side, believing himself that the truth will probably be found to lie somewhere between the two extreme views, or perhaps in some altogether different and unexpected direction. He thinks, however, that bed-isolation, whether by structural separation or by aseptic methods of nursing, affords the most likely way out of the difficulties and drawbacks attendant upon the hospital treatment of infectious diseases. There is reason to believe that

in infectious diseases the primary infection is liable to have accompanying or supervening upon it other secondary septic infections, to which latter the severity of the resulting illness and the occurrence of complications are largely due; that these secondary infections may be different even where the primary infection is the same; and that therefore every patient suffering from an acute infectious disease should be regarded as requiring to be isolated—more or less completely according to the nature and stage of the disease—not only from healthy susceptible persons, and from persons suffering from illness due to other infections but also from other cases which are classified as being of the same infectious disease. Similar principles explain the evil results which have in the past been observed to follow overcrowding and want of strict cleanliness in hospitals, whether for infectious diseases or for surgical cases alone.

To the complaints made from time to time with respect to the excessive cost of isolation hospitals, the answer is that the present high cost of maintenance of such institutions is mainly due to the routine practice of removing to hospital all cases of scarlet fever; that in the present mild phase of scarlet fever many of these cases would do equally well if treated at home, and that much saving to the rates and little detriment to the public health would probably result if the removal of scarlet fever to hospital were limited to exceptional cases of special urgency; but that hospital isolation is found such a convenience by the public that any such limitation—as indicated above—would be likely to give rise to very grave dissatisfaction especially among the working classes. The high cost per bed of construction of isolation hospitals is due partly to the nature of the accommodation needed, but also largely to the difficulty of obtaining suitable sites. Combination with other districts affords the most feasible means of reducing the cost to small districts. Temporary hospitals of wood or iron have serious disadvantages and their apparent cheapness is in large part illusory.

In conclusion the author desires to express his special thanks to Dr Newsholme, C.B., Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, for permission to make use of notes and plans in the possession of the Board, and to other of his former colleagues

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belonging to the Local Government Board; to Dr J. S. Tew, Medical Officer of Health for the East Kent Combined District, Dr S. Barwise, County Medical Officer of Health for Derbyshire, Dr Philip Boobbyer of Nottingham, and other medical officers of health, for information and illustrations, and to Mr T. Duncombe Mann, Clerk to the Metropolitan Asylums Board. The author is also indebted to the proprietors of the *Municipal Journal* for Figs. 54 and 55, to Messrs Wilson and Stockall, Bury, Lancashire, for Figs. 24—26, Messrs Humphreys, Limited, Knightsbridge, London, for Figs. 12—23 and 28, Messrs Boulton and Paul, Norwich, for Figs. 34—38, and the Hygienic Constructions and Portable Buildings, Limited, London, for Fig. 29 and other plans.

H. F. P.

August 1913.

The proofs of this book were being passed through the press at the time of the author's death, and the Editors of the Series were fortunately able to obtain the services of Dr R. Bruce Low, formerly of the Local Government Board, who kindly undertook the correction and completion of the whole work. The General Editors and the Syndics of the University Press desire to thank Dr Bruce Low for the great care and ample knowledge he has devoted to this service.

J. E. P.
G. S. G.-S.*21 January 1914.*

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